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ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Report of the Secretary-General

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Annex

REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

[Original: Arabic]

[25 September 1996]

1. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya once again affirms the principled position which it has taken at international gatherings and conferences, namely, that all types of weapons of mass destruction in every part of the world and in every State without exception, must be eradicated in order to rid mankind of this terrible scourge which threatens its very survival.

2. It was on this basis that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and in Cairo this year signed the Pelindaba Treaty concerning the establishment of an African nuclear-weapon-free zone. It stresses its concern to make the Middle East a region truly free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

3. However, any progress towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East depends on Israel, in common with other States, being bound by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the elimination of Israel's arsenal of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, under international supervision and in accordance with a specific timetable, and the placing of Israel's nuclear facilities and those related to other weapons of mass destruction under international inspection and supervision safeguards, with a view to guaranteeing the use of those facilities for purely peaceful purposes.

4. Israel's refusal to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, when it possesses enormous numbers of nuclear weapons, is developing other weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery and refuses to place its facilities under international supervision and International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, not only flouts the wishes of the international community but also constitutes a grave and persistent threat to the security and the future of the peoples of the region and, consequently, to international peace and security.

5. Israel's attempts to lift the issue of freeing the region from nuclear weapons out of its international context and link it to so-called progress in the Middle East peace process are duplicitous and should be concealed from no one, since there can be no stability or peace as long as Israel continues to maintain a nuclear arsenal in order to terrorize the peoples of the region.